Amendments to the Claims

Complete Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently amended) A method of processing a document that includes a plurality

of characters, the method comprising:

capturing a plurality of partially overlapping digital images of the document with

an image capture device;

maintaining image sequence information identifying a sequential order in which

the partially overlapping images were captured;

receiving direction information indicative of a direction of relative movement

between the image capture device and the document during the capture of the plurality of

partially overlapping digital images;

performing optical character recognition on the plurality of captured partially

overlapping digital images to generate a corresponding plurality of electronic text files;

selecting two of the plurality of electronic text files based on the sequence

information;

comparing the plurality of electronic text files with one another based on the

sequence and direction information to identify a character sequence appearing in

common in the electronic text files corresponding to the partially overlapping images of

adjacent portions of the document; and

combining the two selected plurality of electronic text files into a combined text

file based on the direction information and based on a character sequence appearing in

common in the two selected electronic text files ~~the comparison and in a manner~~

~~consistent with the sequence and direction information~~.

2.   (Canceled)

3.   (Canceled)

4.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of partially overlapping digital images are captured with a digital camera, the method further comprising:

providing the direction information with a user input device of the digital camera.

5.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of partially overlapping digital images are captured with a digital camera, the method further comprising:

automatically detecting the direction information.

6.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of partially overlapping digital images are captured automatically at a predefined time interval.

7.   (Currently amended) A digital camera comprising:

~~a lens;~~

~~an image sensor for generating a plurality of partially overlapping digital images~~

~~based on optical images directed onto the image sensor by the lens;~~

a memory <u>adapted to store</u> ~~for storing~~ image sequence information representing

an order in which ~~the~~ <u>a</u> plurality of digital images ~~were~~ <u>are</u> captured; and

a controller ~~coupled to the image sensor and~~ configured to: receive direction information indicative of a direction of movement of the digital camera during capture of the plurality of digital images, ~~and to~~ perform optical character recognition on the plurality of ~~partially overlapping~~ digital images to generate electronic text files, and ~~corresponding to the plurality of partially overlapping digital images, the controller configured to compare~~ stitch at least two of the electronic text files together based on the image sequence information, ~~and~~ the direction information, and by identifying ~~to identify~~ overlapping text appearing in the at least two electronic text files ~~corresponding to adjacent partially overlapping digital images and to stitch the text in the plurality of text files together based on the identified overlapping text consistent with the image sequence information and the received direction information~~.

8.   (Canceled)

9.   (Previously presented) The digital camera of claim 7, further comprising:
a user input device for inputting the direction information.

10.   (Previously presented) The digital camera of claim 7, further comprising:
a motion detector for automatically detecting the direction information.

11.   (Currently amended) The digital camera of claim 7, wherein the controller is configured to capture ~~cause~~ the plurality of ~~partially overlapping~~ digital images ~~to be captured~~ automatically at a predefined time interval.

12.   (Currently amended) An ~~image capturing apparatus~~ <u>electronic device including a digital camera, the electronic device</u> comprising:

~~a display screen for displaying images captured with the digital camera;~~

~~an input device for inputting information into the electronic device;~~

a memory for storing image sequence information representing an order in which ~~the digital~~ images are captured <u>by the image capturing apparatus</u>; and

a processor configured to perform optical character recognition on <u>the</u> ~~digital~~ images, ~~captured with the digital camera and~~ generate ~~corresponding~~ electronic text files <u>corresponding to the images</u>, ~~the processor configured to compare the electronic text files based on the sequence and direction information to identify overlapping text appearing in the electronic text files corresponding to adjacent overlapping digital images,~~ and to stitch ~~text from~~ the electronic text files together based at least in part on the <u>image sequence information, on</u> ~~overlapping text, the order in which the digital images are captured, and~~ direction information indicative of a direction of relative movement <u>of the image capturing apparatus, and on character sequence information</u> ~~between the digital camera and the document while the digital images are being captured~~.

13.   (Currently amended) The <u>image capturing apparatus</u> ~~electronic device~~ of claim 12, wherein the <u>image capturing apparatus is implemented in</u> ~~electronic device is~~ one of a cellular telephone, a personal digital assistant device, and a laptop computer.

14.   (Canceled)

15.   (Currently amended) The image capturing apparatus ~~electronic device~~ of claim 12, further comprising an input device ~~wherein the device is configured~~ to allow a user to enter the direction information ~~via the input device~~.

16.   (Currently amended) The image capturing apparatus ~~electronic device~~ of claim 12, ~~and~~ further comprising[[:]]

a motion detector to ~~for~~ automatically detect[[ing]] the direction information.

17.   (Currently amended) The image capturing apparatus ~~electronic device~~ of claim 12, wherein the processor is configured to cause the ~~digital~~ images to be captured automatically at a predefined time interval.

6